

I ask all of my colleagues here in the House and over in the Senate to keep in mind that we need more flood protection all across this Nation; otherwise, there will be great suffering.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this week many people and leaders from the USA and all around the world converged on Washington, D.C., for the National Prayer Breakfast.

Its tradition started 65 years ago under President Eisenhower and with partners in the Congress to take a little time to come together as leaders and a people in prayer and fellowship. It is a bipartisan effort—indeed, ideally, a nonpartisan coming together. Some might say a bunch of politicians coming together, well, but some very powerful testimonies come from this time together.

This year, from right here in this building, Senate Chaplain Barry Black, who also served as a Navy admiral, gave a strong message on the power of prayer, that our prayers are, indeed, heard in Heaven.

Two years ago, an amazing, humble, personal testimony delivered by NASCAR race driver Darrell Waltrip had everyone talking later. I would recommend anyone to find this video and enjoy that moving personal message of the lows and the highs, the lows and the highs of fame and celebrity and that you need God in your life.

This can also happen, and does, in local communities as tens of thousands of prayer breakfasts happen on the National Day of Prayer, which this year will be May 4, as it is always the first Thursday of May, as proclaimed by President Reagan.

I urge you as Americans, if you don't have one in your community, start one. If you do have one, please participate.

MUSLIM BAN IS AGAINST OUR FUNDAMENTAL VALUES

(Mr. PANETTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against President Trump's Muslim ban, an executive order that emboldens our enemies, undermines our alliances, and offends our American values. This ban has, among other things, blocked visas for interpreters from the Middle East, people who risk their lives to save American lives.

When I was deployed to Afghanistan as an intelligence officer, I worked with many interpreters; and at first, I realized they not only provided accurate information, they kept us safe. As time went along and I got to know them, what I came to realize is that

they were the ones who were unsafe. They were the ones who were risking their lives to save our lives.

When I got to know them, I would ask them: Why are you taking this risk? Why are you doing this? And the reason they gave me was similar to the one my grandfather gave me, my Italian immigrant grandfather, as to why he came here to America back in 1921, and that is they came here to give their children a better life.

Mr. Speaker, to me, that is the definition of the American Dream. President Trump's executive order not only makes us unsafe, it is against our fundamental values. If people are willing to take risks to live the American Dream, we don't stop them; we welcome them. That is why my family is here. That is why I am here.

TRIBUTE TO DAN HALLIBURTON

(Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a stalwart public servant. Dan Halliburton started his public service career as a law enforcement officer, eventually retiring in 2009 from the Ohio State Highway Patrol with over 32 years of service.

But he didn't stop there. He felt the call to serve more, and in 2010, Dan joined my team, tasked with representing the largest geographical and most rural district in the State of Ohio.

Very quickly, Dan distinguished himself as a man of and for the people. He expertly managed my transportation so that we could be out amongst the people I represent. He built lasting relationships with local elected officials, law enforcement, and business owners. But what set Dan apart, was his genuine care and concern for the people of Appalachia. It was reflected in the high level of service he provided them.

So on behalf of the hardworking people of eastern and southeastern Ohio, Godspeed to Dan Halliburton and his family as he begins his well-deserved retirement.

GI INTERNSHIP PROGRAM ACT

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, too many of our veterans struggle to find a job despite their unique leadership abilities and proven skill sets.

At the same time, I hear from small businesses that our economy skills gap is widening. Manufacturers want to hire, but positions sit unfilled because they cannot find qualified workers.

That is why I am proud to introduce, this week, the GI Internship Program Act. The bill brings together these two sides, veterans and our small businesses, to bridge the skills gap and ex-

pand the job opportunities available to those who served our Nation.

Since 1944, we have committed to providing our returning military men and women a quality education, but not every lesson is best learned in the classroom. This legislation allows veterans to receive their post-9/11 GI Bill benefit as a stipend while participating in a qualifying 6-month to 1-year internship or apprenticeship, at no additional cost to taxpayers.

I am proud to introduce this bipartisan bill with my colleague from Florida, Congressman TED Yoho. I encourage our colleagues to join us in support of our veterans and manufacturers on this win-win commonsense legislation.

IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS SEAN COOLEY

(Mr. KELLY of Mississippi asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I am humbled to rise in memory of Army Sergeant First Class Sean Cooley.

Sean was my friend, and on this day in 2005, he paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect our country. It was a privilege to serve with him during our deployment to Iraq and Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

SFC Cooley was assigned to the Mississippi Army National Guard's Company B, 150th Combat Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Lucedale, Mississippi.

SFC Cooley gave his life when an IED detonated near him on February 3, 2005, while on a combat mission in the Babil province, Iraq. SFC Cooley was the first 155th soldier from the Dixie Thunder Brigade to sacrifice his life in Iraq and was the 21st soldier with Mississippi ties to die in the war on terror.

SFC Cooley followed in the footsteps of both of his grandfathers by serving in the U.S. Navy. He joined the Seabees in 1991 and later joined the Mississippi National Guard in 1997. SFC Cooley was a platoon sergeant in B Company, 150th Engineer Battalion of the 155th Brigade Combat team that included 3,500 Mississippians.

SFC Cooley was a great NCO, a great leader, and a great soldier, both on and off the battlefield.

While serving in the Mississippi Guard, SFC Cooley obtained a degree in nursing and became an RN in 1996. His commitment to care for the needs of others will always be remembered, as remembered by Lieutenant Colonel Robinson, his commander, who said he was sick and down at one time during a training incident, and SFC Cooley gave him both medicine and water and made sure that he took care of him. SFC Cooley will forever be remembered for his random acts of kindness.

Sergeant First Class Cooley's mother, Kathryn, says her husband, Jerry; their son, Patrick; and Sergeant First Class Cooley's wife, Laura, could not be